Vacant Posts pertaining to SCs/STs

4311. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various category-wise posts pertaining to SCs/STs lying vacant in his Ministry and its subordinate offices;

(b) if so, the date since when these posts are lying vacant; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Measures taken to boost morale of Security Personnel

†4312. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the news-items published in 'Punjab Kesri' dated the 27th February, 2001 under the caption *"Jammu-Kashmir mein tainat surakshakarmi asamanjas mein"*;

(b) the details of the measures taken by Government to boost the morale of the security personnel; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Security Forces have worked out a strategy to deal with the militants in the State of J & K for the period during which the renewed peace initiative is in force. This *inter alia* includes continued anti-infiltration operations at International Border and Line of Control, area domination and other steps for the protection to minorities, scattered and remote populations, protection of vital installations and security camps

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

etc. Utmost attention is paid to the upkeep combat fitness and high standard of man management and morale of the troops. This is ensured by regular visits of senior officers to the places of duty and deployment.

Militants Suicide Squad attack on Srinagar Airport

4313. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether militants suicide squad recently attacked the Srinagar Airport killing some CRPF Jawans and injuring several others;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. On 16.01.2001 a fidayeen squad of 6 terrorists of LeT attempted to storm the Srinagar Civil Airport. In the ensuing encounter near the first gate (barricade) 4 CRPF personnel, 2 Civilians and 6 terrorists were killed, 10 Security Forces Personnel were injured and some shops located near the site of the encounter gutted.

(c) Security Force Personnel deployed on duty at the Airport have been instructed to continue to be alert and strengthen the picket.

IREDA Objectives and Projects

4314. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) was established with the main objective of promoting, developing and financing renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency projects for sustainable development in March 1987;

(b) if so, which of the non-conventional energy system have already crossed the demonstration stage and reached commercial maturity; and